

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 26, 2011, 3rd Floor Council Hearing Room, 7:05 pm to 8:45 pm

PRESENT

Commissioners: Lee Annis; Cherri Branson; Henry Kahwaty; Carmen Larsen; Phillips, Jacqueline; Jonathan Shurberg; Don Spence; Patti Jo Witham

Staff: Jeff Zyontz and Susan Mabie, Council Staff

Public Observers: Elaine Apter, League of Women Voters; Paul Bessel and Barbara Braswell, Leisure World; Steve Noyes; Laura Steinberg, Board of Education

Agenda:

- 1) Approval of minutes
- 2) Liaison with parties charged with redistricting Board of Education boundaries
 - Senator King
 - Board of Education Member O'Neill
- 3) Public forum – Speakers to date include:
 - Jerrold Garson (President, Board of Elections)
 - Sharon Dooley (Greater Olney Civic Association)
 - Henry Quintero (former Director, Latino Civil Rights Center)
 - Kenneth Nelson (President of and on behalf of Black Ministers Conference)

Action:

- 1) Henry Kahwaty, Vice Chair, chaired the meeting in the absence of Jason Tai.
- 2) April 28 minutes were approved.
- 3) Guests presented information and answered questions from Commissioners.
 - Board of Education Member O'Neill explained the Board's districts and provided handouts
 - Senator King asked that Commissioners keep high school clusters - how they overlap with Councilmanic Districts - in mind as they work; the boundaries for Board of Education member will be determined after the Commission submits its recommendations
- 4) Public forum speakers testified
 - Jerrold Garson: the Board of Elections takes no position on redistricting; noted that phantom precincts should be avoided
 - Sharon Dooley: Greater Olney Civic Association requests that the Commission keep Olney boundaries as is as much as possible
 - Henry Quintero: large Latino population increase (now largest minority); asks Commission to be careful not to ghettoize and also to achieve balance as much as possible
 - Kenneth Nelson: (Black Ministers Conference) recommended that all districts include a racially and ethnically diverse population

Requests:

- 1) Jeff Zyontz was asked to provide high school cluster geography with the redistricting software.
- 2) The public was asked to provide their ideas in terms of their recommendations for district boundaries.
- 3) Items on the June 30 agenda will at least include review of the comments heard May 26 and working with the redistricting software.
- 4) Commissioners were asked to email Vice Chair and Chair with agenda requests for the June 30 meeting.

Next Meeting:

June 30, 2011, 7:00 pm

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